



GREENSBORO URBAN AREA

Transportation Advisory Committee

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of May 18, 2000
10:30 AM Greensboro, NC

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Sandy Carmany	TAC Chair, Greensboro City Council
Chairman Bob Landreth	Guilford County Commission
Doug Galyon	NCDOT Board of Transportation
Mayor Keith Holliday	Greensboro City Council
Mary Rakestraw	Guilford County Commission
Don Vaughan	Greensboro City Council

OTHERS PRESENT

Jim Westmoreland	TCC Chair, GDOT	Libby James	GTA
Gary Faulkner	NCDOT	Mike Mills	NCDOT
Travis Marshall	NCDOT	Mul Wyman	Guilford County Planning
Tom Stapleton	City of Greensboro	Richard Atkins	Neel-Shaeffer
Cathy Houser	NCDOT	Tyler Meyer	GDOT
Bill Parrish	Town of Oak Ridge	Veronica Dunlap	GDOT
Ken King	GDOT	Paul Muschick	Greensboro News & Record
Alec McIntosh	Greensboro City Planning	Terry Harris	NCDOT
Jerry Dudeck	NCDOT		

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of April 12, 2000 Minutes

Sandy Carmany opened the meeting. Mayor Holliday moved to approve the minutes. Don Vaughan seconded. Motion carried.

Adopt MTIP Amendments – Transit

Tyler Meyer reviewed the proposed minor amendments to the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program FY 2000-2006 (MTIP) to re-program Section 5307 transit funds. This action comes in response to a new Board of Transportation policy to provide extra moneys and added flexibility to local authorities, and was recommended for TAC adoption by TCC on May 18. The public review period began April 17 (following TAC action) and ended May 16. The amendment was displayed and advertised in accordance with the MPO public involvement

policy. No comments were received. Keith Holliday moved to adopt the MTIP amendments. Don Vaughan seconded. Motion carried.

Enhancements Program

Grant applications for the enhancements program are due June 16. This NCDOT administered competitive grants program uses Federal Highway set-aside funds for eligible alternative modes of transportation and community projects. MPO endorsement is required for MPO-area applications. One application will be submitted: the Bicentennial Trail (phase IV) from Gallimore Dairy Rd. across several other streets to Swing Road. This 3.6 mile route will cross I-40, take place entirely within existing road right-of-way on a six foot wide sidewalk, and cost \$2.1 million dollars including a 25% local match. Guilford County is the project sponsor. Doug Galyon encouraged this and future MPO-area applications. Tyler Meyer reviewed a draft resolution of endorsement. Bob Landreth moved, Mary Rakestraw seconded, and the motion carried.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Urban Loop at Market Street Interchange Update

Cathy Houser presented NCDOT's preliminary review of Urban Loop at West Market Street interchange issues. Two issues were cited: (1) exorbitant right-of-way costs due to the location and characteristics of the Sherwin Williams Plant/ Wood Lab (facility value estimated at approximately \$30 million); and (2) a May 8th letter from the FHWA Division Administrator stating the belief that a Market Street interchange would be too close to the I-40 at Urban Loop interchange for safe and efficient operation. Travis Marshall reviewed the 2025 traffic forecasts with and without the interchange. The forecasts show Market Street Interchange traffic diverting to Guilford College Road, Gallimore Dairy Road, and Friendly Avenue in the no-interchange scenario (with 2025 ADT forecasts of 28,000 on Gallimore Dairy and 22,000 on Guilford College). The forecast of the scenario that includes the interchange omitted Gallimore Dairy Road and Guilford College Road. However, preliminary judgement suggests 2025 ADT traffic of approximately 16,000 on Gallimore Dairy Road and 15,000 on Guilford College Road if the interchange were in place. An intersection/ interchange capacity analysis and revised right-of-way estimate will be prepared for discussion at the next MPO meetings.

Discussion followed. Grade issues and railroad location on the south side of Market Street appear to prohibit flyover ramps. Mayor Holliday stated concerns that the no-interchange scenario would negatively affect area traffic and character. Don Vaughan asked whether the Wood Lab had been expanded prior to the date of public notice. Doug Galyon stated that from an area perspective other improvements (including the potential extension of Gallimore Dairy Road across Market Street to Friendly Avenue) could be made that would compensate for negative effects of the no-interchange scenario. Mayor Holliday expressed concerns about increased truck volumes on Friendly Avenue and the routing of through trips onto surface streets. Doug Galyon stated that the real issue is the FHWA concerns about interchange spacing, and that the right-of-way cost is a secondary issue. The MPO's position on the issue will be seriously considered by the BOT in making a decision, but the ultimate sign-off authority lies with FHWA. Jim Westmoreland asked why the EIS was approved if the spacing issue was a deciding factor. Cathy Houser stated that this may have been a mistake. Doug Galyon stated that while numerous similarly spaced interchanges were approved in the past, current standards are more

stringent. Ken King stated MPO staff would work with NCDOT to bring a full review for discussion at the next MPO meeting.

Gallimore Dairy Road Study

Richard Atkins presented the findings of the Gallimore Dairy Road Feasibility Study. The Gallimore Dairy Road interchange at I-40 will open and replace the Chimney Rock Road interchange in 2002. Gallimore Dairy will also be widened to 5 lanes to International Drive as part of the I-40 project. Travel modeling confirms that Gallimore Dairy traffic will greatly increase with I-40 access and with increasing area-wide travel demand. In the short term Gallimore Dairy north to Market Street needs to be 5-laned and the Market Street and Friendly Avenue intersections improved to prevent or eliminate a troublesome bottleneck. The study included a preliminary environmental screening and recommended consideration of local and state funding options to advance this project in a timely fashion. The study also identifies the extension of Gallimore Dairy Road across Market Street to connect to Friendly Avenue as a likely need for further study, especially if the Market Street at the Western Urban Loop Interchange is not constructed

NC 68 Corridor Study

Gary Faulkner reviewed the NC 68 Corridor Study. A series of improvements are needed along the NC 68 corridor from Pleasant Ridge Road to Skeet Club Road. Recommendations include construction of parallel collector roads, limiting direct access to NC 68, grade separations at key locations, and intersection reconfiguration to enhance capacity including the removal of one leg of Albert Pick Road. TCC discussion included the fact that two additional through lanes are needed and could be accommodated in existing right-of-ways and bridge structures. Direct access to NC 68 is a key problem that parallel collector roads would address. The Airport Area Transportation Study will further analyze problem areas and issues (including I-73 routing) and likely solutions. The Cities of Greensboro and High Point and NCDOT need to develop a phased action plan for improvements along this corridor.

Reschedule June MPO meeting

The next meeting was rescheduled to July 11th at 10:00 A.M. rather than 10:30.

OTHER ITEMS

Board Member Update

Doug Galyon reported that the Regional Road bridge reconstruction at Market Street will be let to contract in May. The Vickery Chapel Road widening from I-85 Business to Grandover Parkway and I-85 Business bridge reconstruction will be let in June. A state commitment to accelerated right-of-way funds has been made for the Western Urban Loop between I-85 and I-40. The Secondary Road Program's Guilford County element will be presented to the County Commissioners on May 18th. Additional roads will be paved at a total cost of around \$2 million.

PART Update

At the April 12th meeting PART voted to accept management over the RSVP vanpool service.

Town Reports

No reports were made.

Staff Informational Items

MPO staff will attend a Pleasant Garden Planning Committee meeting on June 12th. A public hearing on the Draft EIS for Airport Expansion Plans and the FedEx hub will be held May 23rd at the Greensboro Coliseum. A public informational meeting covering three passenger rail studies (the Southeast High Speed Rail Program Tier 1 EIS and the two PART rail studies) will be held at the Greensboro Main Library on the afternoon of June 14. Senate Bill 1164 on MPO consolidation has been modified and is under discussion in the legislature.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM.